



Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild

P.O. Box 2086
Williamsburg, VA 23187
<http://williamsburgspinweave.org>

JUNE 2021 Newsletter
Next Meeting Monday July 19,2021
Social Time 9:50-10:00
ZOOM Meeting 10:00-12:00

Program: Dyeing with Dee!



WILLIAMSBURG SPINNERS & WEAVERS GUILD

JUNE 21, 2021 MONTHLY MEETING

10:00 AM on ZOOM video call. Special Thanks to MAFA for making the ZOOM program available to its member guilds. Meeting brought to order by President (and ZOOM guru) Dave Banks.

Attendees: Dave, Cindy, Liz V, Sandi, Linda C, Linda A., Ingrid, Claudia, Marsha, Debbie, Dee, Kathy, Goodie, Lisa D, Becky

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MINUTES: Accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT:

We have \$4,220.57 in the treasury, and 45 Paid Members! Welcome to new members Jack Murphy, weaver, and Becky Butler, basketweaver! We look forward to seeing you at meetings, and to seeing some of your handiworks in the future.

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS:

We are looking forward to hearing from our MAFA Conference attendees during July's program. How did the remote Conference work? What cool topics did you learn?

How was the Fashion Show and Art Show? In August, Liz will discuss Yarn Finishing: different techniques for washing, setting and preparing your handspun yarns to suit your yarn and project. Linda will show us Beginning Card Weaving in September. The current list of the rest of the programs is at the end of the minutes. If you have any ideas for future programs or workshops for our guild, please let Cindy know.

STUDY GROUP: We are setting up a Study Group on Josephine Estes Overshot Miniatures Patterns, based on the free downloadable patterns available at Weavers Marketplace. [Patterns and an entire page of cool things are at:

https://www2.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/wtopic_overshot.html

- The patterns are in 2 parts in the Monograph section. Cindy also sent out files via email, so you can print them yourselves from her files, or from the webpage.] Cindy and Rosemary have done a few samples, and found it exciting! There are over 40 patterns available. It won't be right away, so think about if you would like to participate. All you need is a 4-shaft loom. Narrow looms are fine for miniatures! We're still discussing how we will proceed. Let Sandi or Cindy know if you want to participate. There are some beautiful patterns out there! Pick one of the patterns that Cindy emailed for your own sample! Check out your emails to see who signed up for what pattern, or email Cindy to see if someone picked a pattern you want to pick.

Workshops: Our treasury is flush enough to pay for workshops on a myriad of topics. If you learn of any teachers, topics or ideas that would be interesting, please let Cindy know, or bring them up during the next meetings. Also, Kris Wessler has volunteered to help Cindy research Workshop ideas. Maybe we can schedule some on weekends or weeknights so those who work 9-5 can enjoy them, too. We are hoping to schedule workshops on all our fiber arts, including knitting, crocheting, spinning, felting, dyeing, weaving, basket weaving ... there are so many possibilities!

WEBSITE:

Dave has started posting videos of our Zoom Meetings and Programs on the website and/or our YouTube site, for members who can't attend live. Great way to keep up, and to enjoy our informative programs! Check our website for links

www.williamsburgspinweave.org. (Or check your email: Dave sent out links this month!) It is so cool that we have our teaching programs online, and it is so fun to peruse the meetings, especially the Show and Tells!

CAN YOU HELP? If you can, when you send your Show and Tell pictures to Janet for the newsletter, please CC (carbon-copy) Dave so he can add color and interest to our website. We think your art is beautiful!!!!

OLD BUSINESS:

MEETINGS: We discussed the future of our meetings. Most of us have our vaccines, so we want to start meeting again in person (contingent on the new rules being updated by the government). Zoom meetings have been great, too, especially for those of us who live out of town or are travel-challenged. We discussed that we might continue to use Zoom, but also meet together in person perhaps every

quarter or every other month, and include Zoom with our live meetings. We are going to try to book the James City County Rec Center for November and December.

Our In-person meetings would be good for some of the programs that would be nice to do interactively, hands-on. King of Glory Church and the James City County Rec Center both have fast Wi-Fi capable of handling Zoom Meetings. King of Glory might charge a fee, even for non-profit organizations like ours, so we are trying to verify that amount. The local libraries had increased their fees before the shutdowns, so we're trying to find a reliable place that is more inexpensive. None of our usual haunts are open yet, but we are researching to find out when they will be available.

How do you feel about meeting in person again? I am sorry that I didn't send out the Survey via email that I promised, to get a feel for how eager or reluctant we all are to gather together in person. I'll send it soon, please try to respond. We want input from all of our members, not just the ones who can Zoom! We're Fiber Folk, so obviously we love to touch and feel the various fibers and projects, and do hands-on programs. And we dearly miss our friends who can't access Zoom easily. Obviously, we will comply with government mandates, but perhaps small groups could meet in someone's house for the first few meetings if we have folks who want to get together before our normal venues are open to the public. (e.g., Dave has good Wi-Fi, and can accommodate up to 6-7 people.)

1? Do you feel comfy meeting in person? When do you think you might feel good about it?

2? If we have combined Live + Zoom meetings, would you attend in person or via Zoom, or would it depend on: the program, the weather, your health, your location, or your availability of pants that fit after Covid? 3? Until the larger meeting rooms are available, would you be willing to meet in small groups in someone's house, especially if you can't meet online?

4? If we met in a small group in someone's house, would you want assurance that the other visitors have had their Covid shots?

We appreciate your responses! You can reply to my email (coming soon), or send your responses to Liz Vonasek at Gmail address vadistaff@... (I broke up the email address to defeat scammers' email address grabbers!) Thanks so much!

Ingrid finished cleaning and repairing the Lendrum Spinning Wheel that was donated to our Guild for our Lending Library. It looks lovely, and is now living at Dave's house until someone borrows it. It has so many features (Woolee Winder & bobbins, Plying [jumbo] Flyer & bobbins, Lace Flyer, Regular Flyer, Kate for Plying). It will be a great resource for anyone wanting to learn to spin, or who wants to try out a Woolee Winder, make thick Art Yarn, or Laceweight yarn, but their wheel just doesn't have that capability. Try before you buy!

NEW BUSINESS:

We are looking forward to getting back into the swing of giving demonstrations and classes at Festivals and for other groups. For instance, we are looking into dates and conditions of our traditional Peace Hill Fall Fiber & Craft Festival, and the Green Festival, usually held in the fall.

SHOW AND TELL

Please remember to send pictures to Janet G before or just after each meeting, so she can post it in the next newsletter, so we can all enjoy the fruits of your labors! As she says, the pictures are my favorite part! Also, please copy Dave on the pictures, so he can have some of our beautiful artwork to post on our webpage!

Marsha received Kudos from the group for how well she is transforming her basement/craft room into a beautiful space, with handwoven curtains and lovely artwork on the walls. A work of love, we're sure! Speaking of love, Marsha recently disassembled one of her 24-year old looms, cleaned all the bits and pieces with Murphy's Oil Soap, and carefully reassembled it! It Works! (I'd have a box of pieces left over!) Hurray!

Cindy showed off a lovely pair of multi-shade graduated blue/pink/teal socks handmade by Dee (And they smell like Lavender!). What a wonderful present! (Cindy needed a little extra love this week!) Cindy also worked hard on knitting a Bermuda Shawl (night beachy colors), and is working on a lacey shawl pattern by Melissa Dunning.

Sandi created several tri-color checked dishtowels, but the checks were multi-sized. Whaaat? Wow! Also, she traveled to Columbia, SC, (Yay, someone actually traveled! What fun!) and purchased several thick crocheted chenille/velour reusable yarn balloons! Wash and Dry to shrink,

then soak in water for soft non-toxic water balloons! What great Summer Fun, and no plastic/rubber bits to harm our kids, pets, or wildlife!! What a super idea!!

Ingrid has been busy getting ready for her "Spinning Flax" class to be taken at MAFA. She purchased a new Flax Distaff with slat sides (made by Charlotte Headley's husband). She has also been making pretty blue & white overshot, experimenting with different patterns. (That sounds better than she rethreaded it 4 times until she liked the pattern!) She also wove some Viking towels, using hemp in a Viking-era broken twill (diamond shapes). The hemp tow yarn was much more thick & thin than she anticipated, lots of knots and broken warps and broken wefts, but I'm sure it will turn out great. And the Great Scandinavian Wheel Saga continues. She is still trying to get the last few parts for her new-to-her wheel high-speed kit from the original maker. Sigh. Fingers Crossed, everyone!

Dee has been busy, too. She showed off the biggest skein of handspun yarn I have ever seen using wool from a fine-fiber Masham Sheep! All white (really a lovely very pale cream), so I suspect she will be dyeing parts of it different colors to make something fabulous, as she often does!

Debbie got her new June Potholder Monthly Subscription Box, and she has already made a few of them. They were several patterns of Red, White and Blue (just in time for 4th of July), in Houndstooth, and Log Cabin, and Flag-themed. This looks like so much fun, and it is a fantastic way to easily demonstrate Color and Weave patterns!! Maybe make a bathmat with four of them!

PROGRAM: DYEING WITH DEE!

This month Dee demonstrated using food dyes to color Silk Hankies. No, she didn't use the kind of hankies used by gentlemen in their breast pocket, or by ladies to hang elegantly out of their purse!!! (Although, this technique would work with those hankies, too!!) She used Wilton Food Dyes, and Kool-Aid drink mix (the No Sugar kind) to dye the silk fibers in three colors. She dyed Silk Hankies, which are a collection of silk cocoons that have been stretched one by one out onto a square frame, layer upon layer.

Once dyed and dried, you can then pull off single layers of a dyed hankie, and stretch it out to spin into yarns, or just knit with the fiber as is! We can get Silk Hankies from Wet Belly Fibers; or get silk hankies, silk scarves, silk handkerchiefs from Dharma. All would work well.

Dee emailed an instruction sheet that is very helpful, but she made a few changes to it after she retested it a few more times. (A true artist always tweaks and improves their technique!)

Supply List: Add vinegar and paper plates to the supply list, and remove wire cooling rack.

Step 1: She had suggested using a 1-ounce hankie, but further testing shows that you might have better results if you use a ¼ ounce hankie. Just pull off ¼ of the layers from a 1 ounce hankie. This will be easier to soak all of the layers, and avoid white undyed spots. Step 2: Add vinegar to the soak water (1/8 – ½ cup of vinegar).

Step 3: Add 1 tablespoon of vinegar to the dye mix for silk and wool (not just wool). Will make the colors MUCH more intense. Wilton: 1 cup Hot water, ½ tsp of gel, 1 tbls white vinegar, stir really, really well. Kool-Aid: 3 packs of Kool-Aid, same water/vinegar. (Yes, you can order Berry Blue Kool-Aid online!) She used Grape, Tropical Punch, Orange.

Step 4: Put cookie sheet on top of the trash bag, put hankie directly onto cookie sheet, flat or scrunched. Pour dye on sparingly, and gently push onto fiber with fingertips to insure dye soaks in thoroughly. Make sure to pat edges thoroughly to make sure you don't have any white spots (unless you want white spots!!!).

Step 5: Put hankie onto paper plate, then wrap in plastic wrap. Put onto another paper plate for extra leakage protection. Microwave 2 minutes at a time. Make sure bundles stay damp. The instructions would also work for wool locks, or silk scarves, or wool roving ... so many options! Wool and Silk are protein fibers, and take up these food dyes so well.

Thanks, Dee, for the extra lesson on how to peel a layer of silk off a hankie, and stretch it out to spin or knit. You can read all you want, but I don't really "get it" until I see someone do it!

We recorded this program, and Dave will post it (or links to it) on our Guild website.

(www.williamsburgspinweave.org)

Thanks so much to Dee for setting up this program. I could almost smell the Kool-Aid dyes!

(Yes, the smell washes out!)

WSWG CALENDAR:
MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Every Month on the third Monday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Programs are subject to change. We are so thankful to have so many volunteers to teach us new and inspiring ideas!
ZOOM Meeting ID: 821 7387 9085 Passcode: 445227

JULY 19 Program: MAFA Show and Tell: We can Show & Tell with our purchased goodies, and tips & stories from our classes and seminars and contests from MAFA! Fun!

AUGUST 16 Program: Finishing Yarns: Liz will discuss and demonstrate Whacking and Snapping and Sizing (Oh My!), and other ways of washing & finishing your handspun yarns to match your project.

SEPTEMBER 20 Program: Beginning Card Weaving! Linda will show us how

Everyone can weave beautiful sturdy tapes (ribbons) with an inexpensive deck of Weaving Cards.

OCTOBER 18 Program: Indigo Dye Pot with Tina. Hopefully we'll all have our shots by then to be able to work with Tina's Magic Indigo Dye Pot, and see effects on different fibers.

NOVEMBER 15 Program: Cookie Cutter Needle Felting: Goodie with show us how to use everyday cookie cutters to felt various shapes, and to embellish them to make beautiful decorations, ornaments or gifts. Perfect Timing for Christmas!

DECEMBER 20 Program: Holiday Party and Challenge Projects: Our Challenge this year is "Disasters and Resurrections in the Pandemic." What have you made that demonstrates how the Pandemic has affected your Artwork? (Have you made more things? Fewer things? Gloomier? Cheerier? Any project disasters that epitomize how you feel? ...?)

2022: We are excited about upcoming topics, like Indian Pebble Weave, Color and Weave with other Fabric structures, Spinning for Knitting (or knitting with handspun!), More on Card Weaving, Supplemental Warps, Shadow Weaves, so many possibilities! Please contact Cindy if you have any ideas that you would like to see in our Programs. She would love more Knitting, Crocheting, Spinning, Felting and non-weaving ideas for those of us who don't weave (Yet! Bwa-ha-ha!).

EVENING SIP AND CHATS :

Every Month on the last Wednesday, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

ZOOM Meeting ID: 850 3868 2137 Passcode: 029615

2021: May 26; Jun 30; Jul 28; Aug 25; Sep 29; Oct 27; Nov 24; Dec 29

AFTERNOON SIP AND CHATS:

Every Month on the second Tuesday, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

ZOOM Meeting ID: 810 0687 1327, Passcode: 180174

2021: Jun 8; Jul 13; Aug 10; Sep 14; Oct 12; Nov 9; Dec 14

SPIN-IN ZOOM:

Every Month on the second Wednesday, 1:00 PM,

ZOOM Meeting ID: 834 369 9744, Passcode: 1Tujh6, look for emails from Dee S for direct link.

2021: Jun 9; Jul 14; Aug 11; Sep 8; Oct 13; Nov 10; Dec 8.

UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS:

Due to the pandemic, many upcoming festivals and demos are still in planning. But if there is a distant festival that you have always wanted to attend, look them up now! So many groups are holding their festivals online or virtually. For instance, the New York State Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck is on for October 16 & 17, 2021, with a mixture of in-person and online classes and sales. The same for New Hampshire, Vermont, Wisconsin, etc. I'd never be able to attend in person, but there could be many cool classes I could take online. Now's the time to try them out!

HGA TEXTILES & TEA:

Every Tuesday, 4:00 PM EST to 5:00 PM EST. The Handweavers Guild of America

Inc. is excited to announce our new program, Textiles & Tea. Each week HGA will host a conversation with some of the most respected fiber artists in the field today. In our 45-minute discussion we will focus on their artwork and their creative journey. We will allow 15 minutes at the end of our

conversation for questions from the audience. Textiles & Tea will take place every Tuesday at 4:00 PM (EST) beginning in January 2021 and will be broadcast via Zoom. These broadcasts will be free to view and open to all. Google "HGA Textiles & Tea" or go to <https://weavespindye.org/textiles-and-tea/> to register. Registrants who are not able to login to Zoom at the time of the event may also

watch the program live on HGA's Facebook page. A link will be provided in the registration confirmation email."

HGA

2022 Convergence, July 15-21: The Handweavers Guild Association will be holding its 2022 Convergence at the Knoxville Convention Center, Tennessee in the lovely Smoky Mountains. Check out information at weavespindye.org.

SEFF

2021

Southeast Fiber Forum Festival April 15-18 has been postponed until April 2023. Check out sefiberforum.org for more details.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS:

Central Virginia FiberArts Guild invites us to share this class info with our guild members! Sign-ups for several online ZOOM workshops are available. Cindy sent an email on Feb 18 with clickable links to sign up for these classes, or go to the CVFG website, cvfg.org. Email programs@cvfg.org for more information.

(Break for the Summer)

9/11/21: Weaving Doup Leno with Daryl Lancaster

10/9/21: Double-faced Weaves Lecture with Robyn Spady

10/23/21: Pattern Draft Your Own Lounge Pants with Cal Patch

Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers Guild Membership:

If you would like to join the Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers Guild, please check our website for a membership form, (www.williamsburgspinweave.org) and mail it with your dues to:

Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers Guild, PO BOX 2086, Williamsburg, VA 23187-2086

Sorry, we have no PayPal, online or credit card options at this time. We welcome all Fiber Artists, beginners to experienced, in person or online! One good thing about the challenges of 2020 & 2021 is the creation of ways to allow online members to become new friends!

SHOW and TELL: Debbie showed off her FUN Looping!





Cindy knitting a second shawl!



Dee wowed us with her knitting!



How did Sandi accomplish that amazing weaving?



Dee working her magic colors!



Tina loves learning new tricks to Dorset Buttons!

